mented in 122 blood banks in the cities of Bombay, Madras and Delhi. In Calcutta, the testing would start in 29 blood banks shortly. Screening of blood donors has also started in 26 cities where ICMR has established testing centres. The testing facilities are being expanded in a phased manner.

(d) State Drugs Controllers exercise control on the functioning of blood banks under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(e) Facilities for testing the blood for HIV and other blood transmissible diseases are being expanded in a phased manner. The Rules under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act are being amended to provide that every licensee of a blood bank shall get sample of every blood unit tested for freedom from HIV antibodies.

Provision of better telex services

1562. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide better communications facilities, particularly telex services in the major cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major cities like New Delhi, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Gauhati, Jaipur and Hyderabad have already been provided with electronic telex facilities. Calcutta and Bombay Telex networks are partially electronic and they will become fully electronic by the end of 89-90. Some more major cities like Patna, Chandigarh, Pune, Baroda, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Gwalior are proposed to be converted into electronic telex net work by the end of 1990.

It is also proposed to convert the entire telex network in India into electronic network by the end of the Eighth Plan subject to the availability of the equipment.

Development of low cost housing technology

1563. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta has developed a low cost housing technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta has developed a technology package for the production of low cost innovative components such as sanitary wares, unglazed flooring and facing tiles building blocks and roofing planks, utilising low grade plastic and semi-plastic clays, unconventional ceramic raw materials and other ingredients, as materials for low cost housing. The process know-how for manufacturing the above components have been demonstrated and training imparted to participants from many agencies sponsored by the Council for Advancement and People's Action in Rural Technology (CAPART). Two parties are producing different items demonstrated during the training programme.

Addition of more direct exchange lines in the country

1564. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to add some more direct exchange lines and long distance public telephones in the country particularly in Assam during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft Eighth Plan proposals envisage addition of about 50 lakh Direct Exchange Lines and Long Distance Public Telephone in each Gram Panchayat totalling 221509 in the whole country. About 63000 Direct Exchange Lines, and a Long Distance Public Telephone in each Gram Panchayat (714 nos) in Assam is envisaged depending on the availability of equipment.

Priority in the strategy of Agriculture Development

1565. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether land reforms have been accorded a high priority in the strategy of agricultural development;

(b) whether it has been considered as an integral part of the plan for upliftment of the poor and down-trodden in rural India; and

(c) if so, wheher Government has taken any steps to accelerate the pace of land reforms to achieve the goal of just and egalitarian rural society?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Since the inception of the Planning era, land reforms has been recognised as a vital element both in the strategy of increased agricultural development and improved social justice. Redistribution of land to the landless rural poor provides a durable asset base for taking up land based and other supplementary activities. Similarly, implementation of land reforms measures aiming at security of tenure to the tenants, consolidation of holdings and better maintenance of land records improve the access of small/marginal land holders and share croppers to technology, irrigation, and inputs and thereby lead to increase in agricultural production.

(c) In order to accelerate the pace of land reforms, it has been included as a separate point under revised 20-Point Programme, 1986. The enforcement of land reforms under Point 5 includes compilation of land records, implementation of agricultural land ceilings and distribution of surplus land to the landless. Further, sub-points 2 and 3 of Point No. 11 relate to social justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and monitor the progress of land allotments to these categories. Apart from this a dialogue is carried on with the States for ensuring better implementation of land reforms legislation.

दिल्ली और मधुबनी के बीच मनीआर्डरों का लेनदेन

1566. **श्री अमद मदनी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिनांक 1-4-1989 से 30 जून, 1989 तक बिहार के मधुबनी जिले को दिल्ली से कुल कितने तार मनीआर्डर भेजे गये और उनमें से कितने का भुगतान एक सप्ताह के अन्दर किया गया ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि 5 अप्रैल, 1989 को श्री मुस्तफा मुजफ्फर ने पार्लियामेंट हाउस पोस्ट आफिस से श्रीमती निकहत मुजफ्फर, द्वारा श्री इनाम-उल-हक ग्राम, पोस्ट मेषबन वाया बसैठचानपुरा, जिला मधुबनी, पिन कोड 847102 को पांच सौ रुपए का तार मनीआर्डर किया था जिसका नं० 34358 है भुगतान उक्त डाकघर को कई स्मरणपत्र भेजने के पश्चात् एक महीना और 21 दिन के पश्चात किया गया, यदि हां, तो ऐसे असाधारण विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं,

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि वरिष्ठ डाक अधीक्षक, नई दिल्ली सेन्ट्रल डिवीजन ने डाक अधीक्षक, मधुबनी डिवीजन (बिहार) से इस संबंध में जिम्मेदार पाये गये कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने का अनुरोध किया था; और